



Correspondence Management System

Control Number: AX-17-000-0115

Printing Date: October 04, 2016 03:31:48



Citizen Information

Citizen/Originator: (b)(6)(b)(6)

Organization: College of Menominee Nation

Address: Address Unknown

Constituent: N/A

Committee: N/A

Sub-Committee: N/A

Control Information

Control Number: AX-17-000-0115

Alternate Number: N/A

Status: Pending

Closed Date: N/A

Due Date: Oct 19, 2016

of Extensions: 0

Letter Date: Oct 3, 2016

Received Date: Oct 3, 2016

Addressee: AD-Administrator

Addressee Org: EPA

Contact Type: EML (E-Mail)

Priority Code: Normal

Signature: DD-Division Director

Signature Date: N/A

File Code: 404-141-02-01_141_b Controlled and Major Corr. Record copy of the offices of Division Directors and other personnel.

Subject: Open Pit Mine in Menominee County, Michigan

Instructions: DX-Respond directly to this citizen's questions, statements, or concerns

Instruction Note: N/A

General Notes: N/A

CC: Derek Threet - AO-IO

OPA - Office of Public Affairs

OW - Office of Water -- Immediate Office

Lead Information

Lead Author: N/A

Lead Assignments:

Assigner	Office	Assignee	Assigned Date	Due Date	Complete Date
Jacqueline Leavy	OEX	R5	Oct 4, 2016	Oct 19, 2016	N/A
Instruction: DX-Respond directly to this citizen's questions, statements, or concerns					
Gayvonne Gary	R5	Elizabeth Rosado	Oct 4, 2016	Oct 19, 2016	N/A
Instruction: N/A					

Supporting Information

Supporting Author: N/A

Supporting Assignments:

Assigner	Office	Assignee	Assigned Date
Gayvonne Gary	R5	Kendall Cannon	Oct 4, 2016
Gayvonne Gary	R5	Tracy Jamison	Oct 4, 2016
Gayvonne Gary	R5	Andrea Breese	Oct 4, 2016



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Supporting Assignments:

Assigner	Office	Assignee	Assigned Date
Gayvonne Gary	R5	Jesse McDaniel	Oct 4, 2016
Gayvonne Gary	R5	Darrel Harmon	Oct 4, 2016

History

Action By	Office	Action	Date
Jacqueline Leavy	OEX	Assign R5 as lead office	Oct 4, 2016
Gayvonne Gary	R5	Accepted the group assignment	Oct 4, 2016
Gayvonne Gary	R5	Changed Signature DX-Direct Reply DD-Division Director	Oct 4, 2016
Gayvonne Gary	R5	Assign Elizabeth Rosado as lead	Oct 4, 2016
Gayvonne Gary	R5	Assign Kendall Cannon to support the control	Oct 4, 2016
Gayvonne Gary	R5	Assign Tracy Jamison to support the control	Oct 4, 2016
Gayvonne Gary	R5	Assign Andrea Breese to support the control	Oct 4, 2016
Gayvonne Gary	R5	Assign Jesse McDaniel to support the control	Oct 4, 2016
Gayvonne Gary	R5	Assign Darrel Harmon to support the control	Oct 4, 2016

Comments

Commentator	Comment	Date
No Record Found.		

Gaines, Cynthia

From: (b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)
Sent: Monday, October 03, 2016 3:15 PM
To: Mccarthy, Gina
Subject: Open Pit Mine in Menominee County, Michigan

Gina McCarthy, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency Dear Ms. McCarthy:

I am strongly opposed to the 'Back 40' project proposed by Aquila Resources Inc. in Menominee County, Michigan. While I generally favor initiatives that bring jobs to the region, I believe this project should not be allowed to go forward for several reasons:

1. The Menominee cultural and archaeological sites on the property are much too valuable to sacrifice them to an open pit mine. Aquila Resources claims the burial mounds will be left intact and only the agricultural beds and village sites destroyed, but this area has never been thoroughly evaluated by competent archaeologists using modern methods. No one knows for certain what the cultural and archaeological losses would be. Furthermore, the burial mounds are sacred places.

Even if the pit doesn't swallow them, their integrity would be greatly compromised by being left adjacent to an open pit mine. Aquila Resource's indifference to these values and dismissal of those who hold them is reprehensible. Indigenous people of the Western hemisphere have many times been victims to multi-national corporations and their quest for wealth for their managers and investors. Surely, the time has come to bring an end to this exploitation. Governments in general and the government of Michigan in particular should align with the people of the region they are in place to serve and their values, not the never-ending pursuit of profit with no regard for the costs to others.

2. The risks to the Menominee River and the local groundwater from acid mine drainage are unacceptable. Aquila Resources may make assurances to the contrary, but no sulfide mine has ever been constructed and operated without spreading sulfuric acid into the air and water. This is, quite simply, a known outcome of the process. To expect otherwise is Pollyannaish; to promise otherwise is disingenuous. Acidic pollutants in the Menominee River would likely bring an end to the sturgeon spawning there, a catastrophic outcome for that species.

Documents on Aquila Resources website spell out their projections of costs and returns for the project from their point of view, but these calculations do not consider the costs to people of the region. They do not consider financial implications for the pollution of the Menominee River, nor do they consider the immense costs to the Menominee people and their descendants. If these costs are considered, if you look beyond the narrow interests of Aquila's investors and managers, the project is a financial disaster for the region.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is the front-line regulatory agency, but I fear they will give in to corporate and political pressures and make a mistake that can never be corrected. Please do what you can to see this doesn't happen.

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Humanities Faculty, College of Menominee Nation

Why Wait? CMN is your community college

